

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 056250
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011

DRAFTED BY S/S:SEBASTIAN:GJK

APPROVED BY S/S:SEBASTIAN

-----141915Z 027588 /46

P 141829Z MAR 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056250

NODIS

WH FOR DR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT PORT LOUIS 239 ACTION SECSTATE 14 MAR 77

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0239

NODIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFLE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: CASC PFOR US UG

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATING WITH AMIN

REF: (A) STATE 043013, (B) PORT LOUIS 177

1. SHOULD YOU AT ANY TIME NEED TO SEND SOMEONE TO UGANDA
TO TALK WITH AMIN ON WHATEVER SUBJECT, I WOULD OF COURSE BE
MORE THAN WILLING TO GO, AND COULD GO ON SHORT NOTICE, DEPENDING
ON AIRLINE SERVICE. (THERE IS DIRECT SERVICE MAURITIUS-
NAIROBI ON MONDAYS, THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS, ALL EVENING DEPARTURES,
AND SUNDAY EVENING FLIGHT DIRECT TO ENTEBBE.)

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2. ALTHOUGH AMIN WAS DISPLEASED WITH OUR ACTION OF CLOSING
EMBASSY KAMPALA IN NOVEMBER 1973 AND THE VERY SHORT NOTICE
WE (DELIBERATELY) GAVE HIM, HE DID NOT DENOUNCE ME PERSONALLY,
AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT WAS A GOVERNMENTAL DECISION. AT SUBSEQUENT
ENCOUNTER WITH AMIN DURING OAU SUMMIT IN MAURITIUS LAST JULY
HE WAS EFFUSIVELY FRIENDLY, SOMEWHAT TO MY EMBARRASSMENT (SEE

76 PORT LOUIS 577 EXDIS).

3. THERE WOULD BE SOME ADVANTAGE IN SENDING SOMEONE TO DEAL WITH AMIN WHOM HE KNOWS FROM PAST. FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW IT WOULD HELP TO HAVE SOMEONE WHO HAS HAD EXPERIENCE TRYING TO DECIPHER HIS OFTEN INARTICULATE AND SEEMINGLY IRRATIONAL STATEMENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, IN OCTOBER 1973 WHEN HE THREATENED TO ARREST ALL AMERICANS IN UGANDA STARTING WITH ME -- A THREAT WHICH UNDERSTANDABLY ALARMED WASHINGTON -- I BELIEVE I CORRECTLY INTERPRETED HIS MEANING. HE THOUGHT THAT IF WE "INTERVENED" IN MIDDLE EAST WAR ON SIDE OF ISRAEL, WITH HIS ARMED FORCES ALLEGEDLY SUPPORTING THE ARABS, THE "RULES OF WAR" MADE OUR TWO COUNTRIES BELLIGERENTS AND HE WOULD BE REQUIRED TO INTERN ALL "ENEMY ALIENS." WHEN UNDER INSTRUCTIONS I REMINDED HIM OF HIS RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARD AMERICANS RESIDENT IN UGANDA, HE BACKED DOWN BY SHIFTING TO ONE OF HIS "INVASION" SCARES.

4. BELIEVE I AM ON RECORD SINCE 1972 AS CONSIDERING AMIN THOROUGHLY DESPICABLE, BUT IF YOU NEED SOMEONE TO DEAL WITH HIM, I'D BE WILLING TO GIVE IT A TRY.

5. IN THINKING ABOUT OUR PROBLEMS WITH AMIN, THE OBVIOUS SOLUTION WOULD BE TO GET ALL AMCITS TO LEAVE UGANDA, TO TAKE AWAY FROM AMIN HIS ONLY MEANS OF "GETTING AT" US. FROM YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE YOU KNOW HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO GET MISSIONARIES TO LEAVE AREAS OF DANGER, AND HOW THEY TEND TO DRIFT BACK IN EVEN IF THEY ARE CONVINCED TO DEPART TEMPORARILY. THE TEACHERS IN UGANDA ARE QUASI-MISSIONARIES AND BEHAVE IN MUCH THE SAME FASHION. THE AMERICANS HELPING AMIN WITH HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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AIRLINE ARE PROBABLY RELUCTANT TO GIVE UP THE GOOD DEAL THEY HAVE AND PROBABLY FEEL SECURE THROUGH BEING UNDER HIS PERSONAL PROTECTION.

6. AMIN LIKES TO THREATEN THE AMERICANS IN UGANDA BUT HE ALTERNATES HIS THREATS WITH PRAISE FOR THE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION THEY ARE MAKING TO THE COUNTRY. I BELIEVE HE DOES NOT REALLY INTEND THEM ANY HARM BUT SIMPLY USES THEM TO TRY TO AFFECT THE USG'S ATTITUDE TOWARD HIS REGIME AND AS PART OF HIS GENERAL POSTURING BEFORE THE WORLD AS "THE ONLY LEADER WHO IS NOT IN THE POCKET OF THE IMPERIALISTS."

7. ALL I CAN SUGGEST IS THAT FOR THOSE RESIDENT AMCITS WHO HAVE A SPONSORING ORGANIZATION IN U.S., MAXIMUM PERSUASION BE USED TO CONVINCE THEM TO ORDER REPEAT ORDER THEIR PEOPLE TO LEAVE UGANDA FOR THE DURATION OF AMIN'S REGIME.

KEELEY

UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CITIZEN PROTECTION, CAT-A, NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE056250
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SEBASTIAN:GJK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: N770002-0075
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770362/aaaaccit.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d2497bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 77 STATE 43013, 77 PORT LOUIS 177
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3115835
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEGOTIATING WITH AMIN
TAGS: CASC, PFOR, US, UG, (AMIN DADA, IDI)
To: WHITE HOUSE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d2497bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009